

## SAYS BRIBERY WAS USED TO INDICT LABOR PEACE AGENTS

Former Congressman Fowler of Illinois Makes Charges Against Officials Responsible for Buchanan's Plight.

Statement Made at Preliminary Hearing Before Commissioner Anson S. Taylor Here Today.

Charges that "more than dollar bills were used" to bring about the indictments returned by the Federal grand jury in New York against officials of Labor's National Peace Council were made today at the preliminary hearing given three of the defendants by United States Commissioner Anson Taylor.

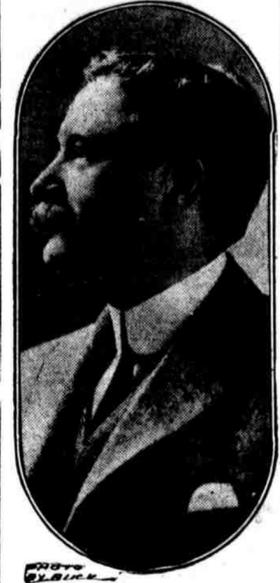
The allegation was made by former Congressman H. Robert Fowler of Illinois, one of the defendants, who further charged that "the bribe was so big that even the birds in the woods would be startled by it. If I were the commissioner in this case I would break every precedent and allow the criminal and foul means to bring about this indictment to be shown."

**BREAK NO PRECEDENT.**  
Assistant District Attorney James Archer, who represented the Government at the hearing, said it was not necessary to break any precedents, that the Supreme Court had held that it was the duty of the Commissioners to hear every reason tending to show that there was not probable cause for extradition.

"Will you consent to our going into that phase of this indictment?" asked Mr. Fowler.  
"It is not necessary to have my permission, you have got a ruling from the Supreme Court to guide you," replied Mr. Archer.  
The incident ended here, however, as Mr. Fowler made no further reference to the means employed in bringing about the indictment.

Mr. Fowler's charge emanated in an innocent way. When he arose to attack the indictment as defective and to quote several anti-trust decisions he had two \$1 bills in the law book with which to pay Commissioner Taylor's clerk for copying the indictment. Mr. Archer facetiously remarked that "it seems appropriate that \$1 bills be used as book-marks in an anti-trust case."

## Sleuth's London Branch Investigated by Police



WILLIAM J. BURNS.

## BURNS DENIES HIS OFFICE WAS RAIDED

But Admits Scotland Yard Agents "Investigated" His Branch in London.

Denial that the London offices of the William J. Burns National Detective Agency were "raided" recently by Scotland Yard men was made today by William J. Burns, head of the detective firm, who is in Washington on business.

Mr. Burns acknowledged that his London branch had been "investigated" by Scotland Yard because of suspicion created by the transmission of certain code messages between his New York and English offices. He also scored the agents of another American detective service, who, he declared, had tried to put his agency "in bad" with the English authorities.

"I presume that the constant interchange of code messages between my office in New York and London caused the investigation after agents of another detective concern had told the Scotland Yard people that they might find some German spy matters if they investigated my London place," said Mr. Burns.

"Scotland Yard men came to my English manager and showed him a cablegram in code which had been sent by me to London and asked him what the message meant. He explained to their satisfaction and told them that if they wanted to go over the office files they were at liberty to do so. They returned several days later and searched the files."

"Of course they did not find anything to verify their suspicions. This is only one of the petty annoyances with which a man has to contend who tries to eliminate his own employ of crooks. Every man I discharge goes out to make trouble for me, and things like this are bound to result."

## AUSTRIA RENEWS SERB PEACE OFFER

Rome, Jan. 22.—Austria has made a fresh offer of peace to Serbia, following the failure of the negotiations with Montenegro, according to an Athens dispatch to the Giornale d'Italia.

Amsterdam, Jan. 22.—The Frankfurter Zeitung openly proposes that Germany negotiate a separate peace with Belgium, according to the Belgian press, as an article of exchange for territory seized by the Allies, said the Zeitung.

"Sensible Belgians ought to be warned not to wait too long, or Belgium will be regarded by Germany as too good a prize to be relinquished."

**Submarine Bases on Corfu Are Located**  
LONDON, Jan. 22.—Seizure by the French of the Greek island of Corfu is now known to have been due chiefly to the location there of an Austro-German submarine base. A second base has been located in the narrow channel between Corfu and the Albanian coast.

## TIMES PLAN TO AVOID TIE-UPS DUE FOR TRIAL

Suggestion Relative to Relieving Congestion at 14th and F Streets Favored by Railway.

**CHANGE IN STOPPING PLAN**  
Bureau Cars Probably Will Halt on South Sides of F Street Now.

There was a noticeable decrease in congestion of street car traffic at Fourteenth and G and Fourteenth and F streets this morning, according to inspectors of the Public Utilities Commission. Officials of the Washington Railway and Electric Company were on the job early directing the movement of the cars.

Delays, it is stated, are much less frequent. A plan to relieve the traffic congestion at Fourteenth and F streets, which was suggested some time ago by The Times, finally has been adopted by the Washington Railway and Electric Company.

**Plan For Stop Change.**  
In accordance with The Times' suggestion, the company has applied to the Public Utilities Commission for permission for the Bureau of Engraving cars to stop on the south side of F street between 7 and 9:15 a. m. This probably will be approved by the commission. This will greatly relieve the congestion, it is believed, as frequently pointed out by The Times.

The company states that while the arrangement may cause some slight inconvenience to passengers transferring at Fourteenth and F streets, it will aid in the expeditious movements of the cars.

That all cars between 4:30 and 5:30 p. m. and 7:30 and 9:30 a. m. on the Georgia avenue and Ninth street lines be run on express schedules is the suggestion received by the Public Utilities Commission today from R. B. Potter, Mr. Potter states that, under the present system, the express cars catch up with the locals before Florida avenue is reached.

**For Shipping Stops.**  
The Commission is considering also ordering "skip stops," or requiring cars during certain periods to stop only every three or four blocks. This system, it was stated, has met with success in other cities and may be tried here.

Twelve inspectors of the Commission today continued their observations of traffic conditions in all sections of the city.

## BRITISH FEAR ATTACK WITH 17-INCH GUNS

Naval Critic Says New German Dreadnaughts Have Weapons to Shoot 20 Miles.

LONDON, Jan. 22.—An attack by German super-dreadnaught, armed with 17-inch guns capable of throwing shells weighing more than a ton a distance of more than twenty miles, may startle England before many months, the Daily News asserted today.

The naval critic of the News reported that the Germans are arming their new battleships, including probably the Hindenburg, with the 17-inch guns. He expressed the belief that the same guns were used in the long-range bombardment of Dunkirk a few months ago. He pointed out that a super-dreadnaught thus armed would outclass any fighting vessel in the British navy, and that the Germans might well risk a sortie into the North sea and a challenge of the British fleet.

The English newspapers for several days have been filled with reports of the new German battle vessels, in the last month. They admit the Fokker's superiority over any British plane, but console themselves with the fact that only a few are in use. One writer expresses the conviction that several Fokkers will accompany the next Zeppelin squadron to London.

## STATE FINDS NEW WITNESS IN MOHR CASE

Woman Reporter's Story of Interview With Alleged Accomplices Amazes.

**GROWS NERVOUS ON STAND**  
New Star Witness Becomes So Excited She Can Hardly Answer Questions.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 22.—Gertrude Stevenson, the Boston newspaper writer, whose unexpected testimony threw the Mohr defense into a panic, today figured as the possible deciding witness in Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr's trial on the charge of plotting her husband's murder.

Stevenson will be cross-examined on Monday. When suddenly thrust into the limelight of the witness stand, upon the heels of George W. Healls, negro driver of the death car, as one of the State's star witnesses, Miss Stevenson became so nervous that her answers were scarcely audible to the attorneys.

Healls, Victor Brown, and Henry Spellman, negroes, the latter two being on trial with Mrs. Mohr, were interviewed in jail by Miss Stevenson shortly after Healls had made his short confession, suggesting to her the possibility of her suspicions by representing herself as coming from Mrs. Mohr, and obtained a story which, when told on the stand, almost equaled that of Healls in its interest.

Brown asked her she testified, to tell his sister the details of an alibi he was preparing in order that she could substantiate him. Brown also asked her to tell Mrs. Mohr to stand pat, to tell nothing, and that the negroes themselves were sticking to their story. Healls at this time had repudiated his confession.

Attorney John J. Fitzgerald, of the defense, immediately attacked the woman reporter's story. He said that the woman is expected to be along this line. He has already obtained virtual admission that the woman misrepresented herself.

The State expected to close on Monday, but whether Mrs. Mohr will be called to the stand is still a problem. It is expected that it may not be necessary to expose Mrs. Mohr to the cross-fire questioning of Attorney General Rice.

## PERSIA REPLY HALTS AMERICAN ACTION

United States Has No Proof That Liner Was Submerged by Austrian or German.

Unofficial advices from Vienna that the Austro-Hungarian government has disclaimed all responsibility for sinking of the British steamer Persia, with loss of two American lives, leaves the United States without any official proof that the Persian was torpedoed.

The German government previously had notified the State Department that reports received from all submarine commanders proved that the Persian was not torpedoed by a German submarine. State Department officials say that the United States cannot go further in fixing responsibility until it has some facts upon which to proceed. Thus far the only testimony bearing on the Persian consists of denials of responsibility by Germany and Austria and affidavits of Persia survivors which fail to establish facts showing the vessel was torpedoed.

Advices from Berlin that the German foreign office has sent further instructions to Count Bernstorff in the Lusitania negotiations are accepted as foreshadowing the early settlement of this controversy. The fact that the State Department is preparing the way for the presenting of claims for indemnity is taken as an indication that the United States government expects to reach a satisfactory settlement with Berlin. Count von Bernstorff, from the first, has been confident of success.

**Transfer Is Denied.**  
The Excise Board today refused the application of George Nestle for the transfer of a wholesale liquor license from Annie E. Hohmann, at 107 Fifth street northwest. Protest against the transfer was made by E. Shoemaker, attorney for the Anti-Saloon League.

## Victory Claimed By Teachers in Fight On Change in Schools

Redrafted Bill Offered by Newman Removed Their Principal Objection.

**DON'T WANT LAW DISTURBED**  
Instructors Have No Organized Channel of Expression Under Present System.

Whatever the outcome of the movement to reorganize the schools of Washington, the teachers feel they won their greatest victory before the hearing began before the subcommittee on education of the House District Committee.

The redrafted bill offered by Commissioner Newman removed the principal objection of the teachers to the proposed change, according to William J. Wallis, president of the High School Teachers' Association. That objection lay in the fact that the first bill contained no safeguard against an overturning of the present system of merit appointments and promotion and assurance of tenure during good service, contained in the act of June 20, 1903, which was sought by Washington school teachers for years.

Though the persons most closely affected, next to the pupils, in the proposed change are the 1,800 teachers and 60 other employees of the schools, no direct expression of opinion came from them during the two-day hearing this week, except that presented by the High School Teachers' Association. The fact that the teachers have no organized channel of expression, teachers say, has given a great impetus to the movement for a general organization of Washington school teachers.

The report presented by the High School Teachers' Association was not even read, therefore gained no publicity in the newspapers, but will be printed in the report of the hearing.

The high school teachers, who are divided into two groups: First, that already mentioned as being removed by the redrafted bill, and also because they might reap the benefit of the change in the power of appointing a director of education.

**Judges Are Preferred.**  
How the teachers will view the present prospect of having the Board of Education retained as the center of the system, and having its members named by the Commissioners or by the President, who probably would consult the Commissioners, Mr. Wallis said he could not say. He believed most teachers would be loath to comment at all on the plan which contemplated making the President the appointing authority.

**NO MORE MYSTERY TO \$68 BREAKFAST**  
Von Papen, Breckenridge, and Dumba Didn't Eat \$22.66 Worth Apiece.

The mystery of the \$68 breakfast for three given by Captain von Papen, the recalled German attaché, to Assistant Secretary of War Breckenridge at the Chevy Chase Club last June has been cleared up. Mr. Breckenridge, Captain von Papen, and Ambassador Dumba did not eat \$22.66 worth apiece. There were enough other guests to bring the per capita breakfast check down to a reasonable figure, something like \$5 a plate and an \$8 tip.

The furs over the mysterious breakfast arose following the publication by the London foreign office of one of the von Papen check stubs showing an entry of \$28 for a breakfast at which von Papen's only guests were said to be the Assistant Secretary of War and the Austrian ambassador.

But it was all cleared up today when it developed that the guests at the breakfast were Ambassador Dumba and Mme. Dumba, Count von Bernstorff, Baron Zwiadnek, the Austrian charge; Prince Hohenne, of the Austrian embassy; Prince and Princess Hatfield; the German ambassador; Assistant Secretary of War and Mrs. Breckenridge, Capt. and Mrs. Powell Clayton, and the host, Captain von Papen.

"Anyway," said one of the guests today, "it wasn't a breakfast for me, for I had mine before I went. I always had breakfast before 12 in the afternoon, when we had this little club affair."



WILLIAM J. WALLIS.

## ARMS SHIP ABLAZE RACES BACK TO PORT

Sygnia, of Norwegian Line, Bound for Archangel, Returns to New York Bay.

NEW YORK, Jan. 22.—The Norwegian steamship Sygnia, reported to be carrying war munitions to the Russian port of Archangel, rushed back to Quarantine at day-break today with a fire raging in No. 1 hold forward, after sending out calls for assistance.

Several fire boats from New York and Brooklyn went to Quarantine and began attacking the blaze. Deputy Chief Worth, of the marine division of the fire department, hastened to Quarantine aboard the fire auxiliary Velox and directed the work of the fire fighters.

No explanation of the origin of the blaze was obtainable at the offices of agents for the steamer early today.

**Left Port At Noon.**  
The Sygnia, a 4,000-ton vessel, left port before noon yesterday, supposedly headed for Vladivostok, Russia, though quarantine officials reported she signaled she was en route to Archangel.

She raced into Quarantine at 3:50 a. m. today, with distress signals flashing from her bridge.

She anchored about 300 yards out in the Narrows and her captain signaled that one of her forward holds was ablaze.

Other vessels drew alongside the burning steamer and played their searchlights upon her while the Sygnia's crew turned the steam hose upon the blaze. They signaled shore half an hour later that they believed the blaze was under control.

Quarantine officials said the Sygnia refused to answer their queries for information as to the source of the blaze, or as to the kind of a cargo the steamer was carrying.

The Sygnia sails from Bergen, Norway, and is owned by L. Mowinkel.

**Captain Retient On Bombs.**  
When the fire was finally gotten under control, Captain Meyers came ashore and told quarantine officials that the ship was carrying railway rails, steel ties and cars and barbed wire for the Russian army.

He would not comment on the report that she was carrying war munitions, nor discuss the possible origin of the blaze.

## VILLA TRAPPED, CARRANZISTAS TRY TO CUT OFF FOOD SUPPLY

Northern Chief Could Stand Off Regiment From His Mountain Stronghold, So Foe Simply Wait.

**New Revolution Started Against De Facto Government in Vicinity of Torreon Creates Alarm on Border.**

EL PASO, Jan. 22.—Francisco Villa is reported surrounded by Carranzista troops in the Sierra Madre mountains of Chihuahua.

This report by General Cavases, who commands the three columns hemming in the bandit chief, was made to Gen. Luis Herrera at Chihuahua and resulted in the premature announcement that Villa was a prisoner.

Gov. Gen. Ignacio Enriquez, of Chihuahua, on official business in Juarez today, gave this explanation of the reported capture, while pointing out that the outlawed bandit probably could hold out in his mountain hiding place indefinitely.

Enriquez had heard that Villa even took a third wife recently, and that his followers have women in their camps.

**CUT OFF FOOD.**  
Several of the bandit chief's followers who, Enriquez said, had made requests for amnesty, declared that from Villa's hiding place his loyal band could stand off a regiment. The Carranzistas, pursuing the sole object of capturing Villa dead or alive, are endeavoring to cut off his food supply.

All feeling between Americans and Mexicans along the border was intensified today by the admission by Carranza authorities at Juarez that Bert Akers, an American rancher, had been killed by Bernardo Duran, a Mexican, at San Lorenzo, a few miles from El Paso. The Juarez authorities have arrested Duran, who claims he shot in self-defense.

Akers, with Douglas Downs, another rancher, from Ysleta, Tex., near here, rode across the border to recover some cattle stolen from an American woman. He expected Duran and his brother, Frederico, who had been accused of stealing cattle for several weeks, and rode directly to their home at San Lorenzo.

According to Downs, the Durans opened fire as he and Akers were riding. Akers, Duran and his brother were arrested. Duran while he was trying to escape.

General Gavira, commandant at Juarez, promised that both the Durans will be executed if their guilt is proved.

**New Revolution Started.**  
The new revolution started around Torreon by a combination of Villa, Argumedo, Zapata, and other enemies of the de facto government, is receiving the Carranza military attention today.

The rebellion, which threatens Americans and foreigners there, is in a territory the Carranzistas had regarded as completely under their control.

The Mexican consulate, which yesterday announced the execution of eight Carranza bandits, has obtained no official confirmation. General Cavases said that when he left Chihuahua city the eight Carranza prisoners were being held awaiting execution. He had no way of knowing definitely whether the executions were carried out after he left, but expressed no surprise. He said the officials were collecting evidence to show that the men had participated in the Santa Isabel massacre of Americans.

Advice from the interior of Chihuahua asserted that Villa had resumed activity in the Guerra district and that raids on several ranches were reported.

## BRITISH SINK TWO AUSTRIAN WAR CRAFT

Submarine Sends Down Torpedo Boat and Hydroplane in Upper Adriatic.

ROME, Jan. 22.—An Austrian torpedo boat and an Austrian hydroplane were sunk in the upper Adriatic yesterday by a British submarine, according to advices received here today.

The submarine came upon the hydroplane while the aviators were trying to repair their engine. Both Austrians were taken prisoners and the submarine was preparing to submerge when the torpedo boat approached and opened fire. The Britisher shot one torpedo and sent her to the bottom.

The fate of the torpedo boat's crew is unknown.

**Erzurum Under Attack**  
Of Caucasus Troops  
Of the Grand Duke  
PETROGRAD, Jan. 22.—The Grand Duke's Caucasus army has begun the assault on the outer defenses of Erzurum, principal city of Turkish Armenia, according to dispatches received here today.

## Kern Resignation to Come Up Next Week

The question of Senator Kern's resignation from the District Committee of the Senate is expected to come up next week.

Senator Kern, it is learned, is insistent in his purpose to retire. It has not been determined who will be his successor.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE MOHR CASE?

Shall a Wife Revenge Herself, and How Shall She Do It?

A personal study and analysis of the central figure in the murder trial of Elizabeth Mohr, which is attracting the attention of the whole country. Pictures by pen and camera.

### In The Sunday Times

## TO SHOW IMPROPER PICTURES IN COURT

Two hundred and fifty improper photographs, eighty pictures regarded as unobtainable, and 500 pages of matter, printed and photographed, will be introduced in Police Court as evidence when the eighteen prisoners caught in yesterday's drag-net on the Government departments are arraigned.

The photographs will be tried two weeks from today. They are charged under a section of the penal code which fixes as a penalty for exhibiting or offering for sale obscene matter a £20 fine or five years' imprisonment, or both.

While the local Police Department is getting ready to present its case in court, Federal agents of the Treasury Department have set afoot an investigation because of the discovery among the obscene photographs of several photostat representations of \$1 bills and 2-cent stamps.

The photographs, according to Chief Flynn, of the Secret Service, with the use of a green wash in the case of the \$1 bill and a red wash in the case of the 2-cent stamps, might be made good enough to pass as legal tender.

## Army of Ten Thousand Gathers to Drive All Revolutionists Out

Unofficial reports reached Washington today that General Villa is surrounded by a large Carranza force near Pecos, Chihuahua, and facing imminent death or capture. Another report from El Paso said that General Trevino, Carranza military commander, had gone to Torreon to take command of an army of 10,000 men gathered to run to earth the scattered bands of revolutionists remaining in the field against Carranza.

These reports were accepted as an indication that Carranza is doing all he can to carry out his pledge to the United States to capture and punish the Mexican bandits.

The State Department and Carranza agency in Washington have been advised that the massacre of Americans in Mexico was planned at a convention held near Cordoba, Mexico, last Novem-